

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/089,104

Response dated January 22, 2004

Reply to OA of August 25, 2003

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7, as follows:

The content of 1,3-butadiene units (a) in the nitrile group-containing highly saturated copolymer rubber is in the range of 1 to 20% by weight, preferably 0 to ~~15~~ 15% by weight and more preferably 0 to 10% by weight. When the content of 1,3-butadiene units (a) is too large, the resulting crosslinked rubber product has poor resistance to rancid gasoline and ozone and exhibits a large volume change in oil.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 35, as follows:

The content of saturated 1,3-butadiene units (b) in the nitrile group-containing highly saturated copolymer rubber is in the range of 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 10 to 45% by weight and more preferably ~~10 to 45% by weight~~ and more preferably 15 to 40% by weight. When the content of saturated 1,3-butadiene units (b) is too small, the crosslinked rubber product tends to have poor resistance to rancid gasoline. In contrast, when the content of saturated 1,3-butadiene units (b) is too large, the crosslinked rubber product exhibits a large volume change in oil.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 13, as follows:

After crosslinking, i.e., first crosslinking, the crosslinked rubber product may be subjected to second crosslinking. The crosslinking time for the first crosslinking and the second crosslinking

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can be chosen depending on the crosslinking method, ~~crosslinking density~~ crosslinking temperature and shape of the rubber product. Usually the crosslinking time is chosen in the range of one minute to 20 hours depending upon the crosslinking density and the production efficiency.